



1998–99 CATS ASSESSMENT

Open-Response Item Scoring Worksheet

Grade 5—Social Studies

The **academic expectation** addressed by “Common Cultural Characteristics” is

2.16 Students observe, analyze, and interpret human behaviors, social groupings, and institutions to better understand people and the relationships among individuals and groups.

The **core content** assessed by this item includes

- All cultures develop institutions, customs, beliefs, and holidays reflecting their unique histories and situations.

Common Cultural Characteristics

There are many cultures in the world. Culture is the way of life shared by a group of people. It includes their beliefs, customs, and traditions. There are some common needs that all cultures have to meet.

- a. Name TWO needs that all cultures must meet.
- b. Give an example of how a culture could meet each of the needs you named in **part a**. Give details to support your answer.



SCORING GUIDE

Grade 5 Social Studies

Score	Description
4	Student names two needs that all cultures must meet and student gives clear, detailed examples of how a culture could meet each of these needs.
3	Student names two needs that all cultures must meet and student gives general examples of how a culture could meet each of these needs.
2	Student names one or two needs that all cultures must meet and gives limited example(s) of how a culture could meet the need(s).
1	Student's response is minimal (e.g., student names one or two needs that all cultures must meet but gives no example).
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response.

Common cultural needs:

- food
- clothing
- shelter
- language
- religion
- education
- arts (e.g., music, architecture, painting, dancing, stories, folktales)
- holidays
- customs and traditions
- economics
- government



ANNOTATED STUDENT RESPONSE

Grade 5 Social Studies

Sample 4-Point Response of Student Work

Student Response

(A.) Two needs that all cultures must meet are food and shelter. Those are two needs that all cultures must meet.

(B.) A culture could meet these needs by building shelters out of logs, like the pioneers, mud like the Adobe Indians, or thatch, like the Amazons.

They could hunt food by making arrows of wood and rock, and making spears the same way. They could gather berries, roots, wild fruit such as plantains, or even eat edible bugs. That is how a culture could meet these needs.

← Student correctly identifies two needs common to all cultures (i.e., food and shelter).

← Student gives detailed examples of several ways that a culture could meet its need for shelter (i.e., logs, mud, and thatch).

← Student gives detailed examples of several ways that a culture could meet its need for food (i.e., hunting with arrows and spears and gathering roots, berries, and bugs).

Overall, the student demonstrates a clear understanding of how different cultures meet common human needs in unique ways.



ANNOTATED STUDENT RESPONSE

Grade 5 Social Studies

Sample 4-Point Response of Student Work

Student Response

There are many cultures in the world. Culture is the way of life shared by a group of people.

A. Two needs all cultures must meet are food and clothing. All cultures have special needs.

B. The cultures must have some way of getting the materials for their needs. You could kill an animal for clothing or use bark and leaves. For clothing, most cultures use buffalo. You can plant a garden for food or get meat from an animal such as a pig or cow. I am glad I can go to the store and buy clothes and food. How about you?

← Student correctly identifies two needs common to all cultures (i.e., food and clothing).

← Student gives detailed examples of several ways that a culture could meet its need for clothing (i.e., animals, bark, and leaves).

← Student gives detailed examples of several ways that a culture could meet its need for food (i.e., garden, pigs, and cows).

Overall, the student demonstrates a clear understanding of how different cultures meet common human needs in unique ways.



ANNOTATED STUDENT RESPONSE

Grade 5 Social Studies

Sample 3-Point Response of Student Work

Student Response

I am going to name two needs that all cultures in the world need.

A. One need is the need of food. One other need is the need of shelter.

B. The way they may meet the need of food is to hunt and fish for animals to eat. The way they may meet the need for shelter is to go and cut down trees and build homes.

← Student correctly identifies two needs common to all cultures (i.e., food and shelter).

← Student gives a general example of how each of the needs could be met, but the examples are not detailed (i.e., “hunt and fish for animals” and “cut down trees and build homes”).

Overall, the student demonstrates a general understanding of how different cultures meet common human needs in unique ways.



ANNOTATED STUDENT RESPONSE

Grade 5 Social Studies

Sample 2-Point Response of Student Work

Student Response

(a) Two needs that all cultures must meet are language and ceremonies. If they don't have language, they can't talk or understand. Ceremonies include different people because they aren't as rich as us and they don't have the nice clothes we have.

(b) People could do hand language. They would have to know the customs to do the ceremonies the right way.

← Student correctly identifies two needs common to all cultures (i.e., language and ceremonies).

← While there is a general example of how a culture might communicate, the discussion of ceremonies is limited and unclear.

Overall, the student demonstrates a limited understanding of how different cultures meet common human needs in unique ways.

Sample 1-Point Response of Student Work

Student Response

a. Two cultures that we have to meet are traditions and customs.

b. In part a, I used traditions and customs. traditions are important things in your life and customs are things you own.

← Student repeats two cultural characteristics from the prompt of the question (i.e., traditions and customs) but does not demonstrate an understanding of those terms.

Overall, the student demonstrates a minimal understanding of how different cultures meet common human needs in unique ways.



INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

Grade 5 Social Studies

The open-response item “**Common Cultural Characteristics**” assesses (1) students’ basic knowledge of the concept of culture, and (2) students’ understanding of the way culture meets fundamental needs of people all over the world. The instructional ideas below present ideas for helping students explore and master these concepts.

Have students work individually, in pairs, in small groups, and/or as a class to complete any or all of the following activities:

- Utilize the Internet to engage in a cultural exchange with students around the world.
- Participate in a class-sponsored celebration of the different art, food, music, dress and other customs of various cultures.
- Create a fictitious group of people and develop cultural traits for that group (laws, religion, food, money, language).
- Identify a situation that many cultures must confront (e.g., climate, natural disasters, lack of resources) and explore the different ways each culture addresses the problem.
- Present to the class or school your experiences with another culture.
- Produce a video documentary about a particular culture, or about the cultures represented in your student body.
- Study and identify common elements of different world religions.
- Build model houses and other buildings from various cultures.
- Write a story or folktale from the point of view of a particular culture.
- Study various forms of government and replicate them in your class. Experiment with a new form each week. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the different forms of government.